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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 19 May 8, 1956

Week ended May 5

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle receipts were somewhat below those of a week and a year ago. Smaller receipts, higher prices in the wholesale beef trade and general rains over the midwest and southwest were bullish influences in the cattle trade and slaughter steers and heifers closed steady to 50¢ higher at most terminals. At Chicago prices advanced 25-50¢ on Monday when more than 40% of the week's run arrived. Trend there was reversed on later days with closing steer sales steady to 50¢ lower. Hog receipts decreased, and under fairly good demand, prices advanced largely 25-50¢ in spite of rather sharp downturns in wholesale fresh pork prices. Receipts of sheep and lambs were only about half as large as those of a year ago and prices turned sharply upward under aggressive competition for the reduced supplies.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Liberal rainfall over most of the midwest had the effect of curtailing supplies of cattle at Missouri River terminals, and the week's receipts of 237,000 cattle at 12 markets showed a decrease of about 15,000 compared with the previous week. Fed steers and heifers were in comparatively good demand and trade at most points was moderately active with closing prices steady to 50¢ higher at the majority of trading centers. At Chicago Monday's fairly liberal run sold 25-50¢ higher but price trend there was reversed on later days and fed steers closed steady to 50¢ lower for the week, heifers steady to weak. Cows sold steady to $1.00 higher, mostly 25-50¢ up, bulls largely strong to 50¢ higher. Influences in the generally stronger price trend on slaughter cattle included smaller receipts, higher wholesale beef prices and substantial rainfall over much of the midwest and southwest. The general rains not only reduced marketings of cows and stockers and feeders but also curtailed receipts of lower grade slaughter steers and heifers, thus improving the killing quality compared with recent weeks. At Omaha the average weight of beef steers was 10# heavier than the previous week while at Sioux City the average was 16# above a week earlier.

Bulk of the steers graded Good and Choice. Proportion of the latter increased at a few markets, but Prime steers continued scarce, the percent of Prime at Chicago Wednesday being smallest for that day in about 11 months. Most Good and Choice steers sold there after Monday from $16.75-21.00 with numerous sales of Choice steers Monday upward to $22.00. High-Choice and Prime cashed at Chicago from $21.00-23.50, three loads average-Prime 1185-1300# $24.50-25.00, one load average to high-Prime 1191# $27.00. At other midwest markets most Good and Choice steers brought $17.00-21.00 with occasional loads high-Choice and Prime $21.00-24.00 including Prime 1295# at Sioux City at $24.00 and Prime 1323# at the same price at S. St. Paul, highest on that market during the past 8 months. A load of Prime 1132# steers reached $24.75 at Omaha.

Vealers and calves sold steady to $1.00 higher, instances $2.00 up on vealers. At S. St. Paul Choice vealers brought $22.00-24.00, with Good and Choice $20.00-23.00 at St. Louis National Stock Yards, high-Choice and Prime there $24.00-25.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Substantial widespread rains the past 10 days did much to at least temporarily relieve drought conditions which had prevailed over a far-flung area. Although considerably more moisture is needed in many localities to assure satisfactory water supplies for the coming season, the quantities received were sufficient to brighten spring pasture prospects and encourage a noticeably more aggressive demand for stockers than existed just a few days ago. At the same time improved weather conditions tended to slow marketings of stock cattle from drought affected areas, and receipts of stocker and feeder cattle and calves at terminal markets were materially smaller than either the previous week or a year ago. Shipments of

steers to the country from the 10 markets during the week totaled 13,889 compared to 17,049 the week previous and 21,433 a year ago. Clearance was usually quite complete at markets where some supplies were carried over a week earlier. Trading generally was active for the reduced supply at steady to $1.00 higher prices. Calves and yearling stockers usually showed the most pronounced upturns but feeder steers 800# up also shared to the extent of a 50¢ advance. Although feed costs have advanced materially during the past several weeks, fat cattle prices are considerably higher than during last winter's low time, and this, together with a fairly optimistic attitude regarding fed cattle prices this spring and early summer in the face of a reported decrease in the number on feed, has stimulated interest in feedlot replacements. Good and Choice feeder steers 800# up ranged from $16.00-19.25, the majority $17.00-19.00. Good and Choice yearling stock steers brought $16.50-20.00, including one load of 704# at $20.00. Choice 619# yearlings in one instance reached $21.50 but this was hardly a criterion of the general trade. Good and Choice yearling stock heifers brought $15.50-17.75 and a few partly fattened 600-750# heifers sold for further feeding from $17.00-18.15. Good and Choice steer calves ranged from $17.00-21.50. Choice heifer calves were scarce. A few Medium and Good stock cows cashed from $10.00-12.00.

HOGS

Combined receipts at 12 terminal markets and in the Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct marketing area were about 8% smaller than the previous week but still considerably larger than marketings for the same period last year. Prices showed alternate advances and declines during most of the week with a general upturn Friday when the 12-market receipts were smallest for that day since last September. The net result of these daily price changes was a moderate advance on hogs despite declines of $5.00-6.00 in prices of fresh pork loins at Chicago and large Eastern wholesale meat centers. Late prices on butchers and sows were steady to 75¢ higher, mostly 25-50¢ up. Outlet to order buyers decreased at some Eastern Corn Belt markets, such purchases at Chicago being smallest in 7 months. By contrast, shipping demand was fairly good at S. St. Paul as well as at a few Missouri River points. The supply of U. S. No. 1 and 2 butchers was moderate to small, and while at times they lacked uniformity, such lots usually sold 25-75¢ above mixed No. 1 to 3 offerings of comparable weight. There was little discrimination against weight of butchers up to around 270# on account of shortage of offerings over 250# in most sections. A large share of the butchers marketed during the week sold within a price spread of $1.00 a cwt. Average weights continued several pounds under a year ago at most markets. Sows made up from 6 to 19% of the week's marketings. Feeder pigs sold steady to 50¢ higher. At S. St. Paul Good and Choice brought $13.50-14.50, a few $15.00; bulk at Sioux City $13.00-13.50, a few $14.00-14.25. At Memphis Medium and Good 70-140# feeders brought $9.50-11.50, few Good 70-80# $12.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets decreased about 19% from the previous week, and were only about half as large as marketings during the corresponding week last year. Aggressive competition for the reduced supply, with trade particularly active on spring lambs, influenced unevenly and sharply higher prices for slaughter lambs, the upturn being supported by a sharp advance in wholesale dressed lamb prices. A factor in the active trade on spring lambs was the approach of the Greek Easter Season when such offerings are in especially good demand. Slaughter lamb prices closed unevenly 75¢-$3.25 higher for the week, spring lambs frequently showing upturns of from $2.00-3.25. At most midwest markets prices were highest in one to two years. Slaughter ewes sold steady to 50¢ lower, while feeder lambs closed 50¢-$1.00 higher. New crop lambs were marketed in increased numbers with old crop wooled lambs almost too scarce to quote. At midweek a few lots of Good and Choice 56-69# spring lambs for the Greek Easter trade sold at Chicago from $30.00-35.00, or highest prices in four years. Good to Prime spring lambs bulked at midwest markets from $23.00-27.25, same grade of old crop wooled and shorn lambs

Continued on page 386.

RECEIPTS, SALABLE AND TOTAL OF LIVESTOCK AT PUBLIC STOCKYARDS
Month of April

Market	Cattle				Calves			
	Salable		Total		Salable		Total	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Chicago	202,219	164,204	212,754	166,371	6,912	7,337	8,686	10,471
Cincinnati	18,641	16,465	23,697	21,994	5,551	5,560	5,745	5,824
Denver	65,603	60,505	84,750	74,692	3,098	4,786	10,716	6,188
Fort Worth	37,139	42,929	52,063	67,378	5,985	8,419	10,146	13,768
Indianapolis	39,622	34,446	40,096	35,239	4,765	5,419	4,842	5,419
Kansas City	97,040	83,733	128,535	135,118	6,007	7,016	11,981	16,440
Oklahoma City	49,886	43,569	57,086	46,684	4,086	4,544	4,693	6,011
Omaha	165,714	167,299	170,135	178,407	3,759	3,917	4,527	4,037
St. Joseph	65,385	61,500	66,426	62,925	4,561	3,430	5,128	5,946
St. Louis NSY	84,907	66,725	102,536	80,544	15,281	15,412	19,263	21,486
Sioux City	91,511	94,251	97,308	99,274	1,833	1,487	2,617	2,595
S. St. Paul	96,413	95,498	99,829	97,840	41,003	38,401	42,858	40,378
Total	1,014,080	931,124	1,135,215	1,066,466	102,841	105,728	131,202	138,563

Market	Hogs				Sheep			
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Chicago	190,632	177,889	249,526	225,704	32,154	53,063	39,435	69,483
Cincinnati	64,126	62,049	66,429	62,602	938	1,444	2,149	2,670
Denver	12,875	11,750	49,228	41,940	71,272	70,399	137,012	94,072
Fort Worth	15,569	9,646	57,785	55,629	113,134	132,255	131,748	156,860
Indianapolis	199,388	197,505	199,388	197,505	3,912	3,370	4,683	3,370
Kansas City	55,811	35,516	62,595	40,417	43,020	43,461	71,993	107,811
Oklahoma City	20,628	12,207	71,644	41,545	10,050	13,274	28,123	16,171
Omaha	160,308	162,006	231,412	226,326	39,534	57,395	49,579	75,460
St. Joseph	122,074	103,976	145,320	115,838	22,226	14,341	58,807	59,355
St. Louis NSY	278,475	203,119	300,488	220,383	10,357	13,443	59,855	73,063
Sioux City	116,993	122,331	137,730	131,267	15,462	25,008	28,693	40,403
S. St. Paul	212,906	201,171	227,805	219,377	22,893	24,614	41,311	50,965
Total	1,449,785	1,299,165	1,799,350	1,578,533	384,952	452,067	653,388	749,683

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

	Hogs	Sheep
April 1956	1,410,500	100,400
April 1955	1,168,500	118,600

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955
Chicago	48,267	41,848	1,461	1,941	41,998	45,761	4,923	9,637
Cincinnati	4,815	4,094	1,503	1,384	14,567	13,212	297	290
Denver	15,481	17,678	730	1,074	3,505	2,884	8,263	12,897
Fort Worth	9,681	18,243	1,034	4,286	3,510	2,879	23,198	60,032
Indianapolis	11,452	7,975	1,167	1,560	46,176	41,153	945	834
Kansas City	21,440	23,927	1,273	1,773	12,217	9,574	13,771	17,191
Oklahoma City	10,357	16,427	720	2,015	5,071	3,852	4,470	3,924
Omaha	37,375	46,381	602	1,436	34,589	37,578	6,203	13,170
St. Joseph	14,850	13,226	1,030	844	25,028	25,507	4,697	6,501
St. Louis NSY	19,768	17,439	4,289	4,068	64,273	49,479	1,447	6,710
Sioux City	21,136	24,653	231	642	25,964	27,117	3,142	6,481
S. St. Paul	22,833	22,156	8,992	8,816	50,890	42,832	3,986	4,936
Total	237,455	254,047	23,032	29,839	327,788	301,828	75,342	142,603
Apr. 28, 1956	252,488		25,034		372,015		92,799	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
May 5, 1956	341,500	22,600
Apr. 28, 1956	355,500	21,100
May 7, 1955	251,500	27,200

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Four months	
	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	Apr. 1956	Apr. 1955	Jan.-Apr. 1956	Jan.-Apr. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	242	358	681	2,058	3,670	6,935	10,955
901-1000	820	1,315	1,758	5,131	8,283	23,042	34,570
801-900	2,127	2,335	2,604	8,812	11,346	46,133	51,987
701-800	3,043	3,439	3,696	13,629	13,611	55,399	55,890
501-700	7,657	9,602	12,694	39,430	42,816	146,017	159,351
Total steers 10 mkts.	13,889	17,049	21,433	69,060	79,726	277,526	312,753
Av. wts. " " "	700#	693#	694#	697#	716#	708#	718#
Av.cost* " " "	$17.00	$17.02	$19.68	$17.32	$20.52	$16.83	$20.13
" " " Chicago	17.61	18.37	20.79	18.41	20.96	17.34	20.30
" " " Ks. City	17.80	17.31	20.69	17.81	21.25	17.36	20.90
" " " Omaha	16.74	16.62	19.50	17.13	20.67	16.65	20.17
" " " S. St. Paul	15.70	15.76	17.64	16.36	19.04	15.46	18.24
" " " Sioux City	17.42	17.26	20.66	17.67	20.77	17.09	20.48
" " " Denver	17.19	17.37	20.54	17.49	20.96	17.34	21.78
" " " Ft. Worth	15.72	16.63	18.47	16.87	19.23	16.46	19.11
" " " Okla. City	16.24	15.97	17.94	16.30	19.36	16.27	19.21
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.04	16.11	18.49	16.77	20.03	16.54	19.84
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.68	16.94	19.46	16.92	19.69	16.35	18.99
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,043	4,604	8,182	19,195	29,732	91,570	125,293
" cows.							
heifers, bulls– " "	3,281	3,922	5,104	14,560	17,326	49,528	63,793

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	1477	1651	1191	4.3	5.1	4.4	1287	1297	1234	23.34	23.38	26.33
Choice	21007	17827	13617	60.8	54.6	50.9	1176	1194	1145	20.67	20.47	23.61
Good	10712	11138	9169	31.0	34.1	34.2	1026	1041	1010	18.56	18.41	21.09
Com'l.	1142	1710	2395	3.3	5.2	9.0	941	938	956	15.69	15.97	18.16
Utility	208	309	405	.6	1.0	1.5	1010	1009	916	14.34	14.34	15.38
All grades	34546	32635	26777				1126	1132	1082	20.03	19.75	22.41
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	478	328	160	2.5	1.8	.8	1313	1325	1326	22.49	22.41	25.31
Choice	11957	10371	11939	63.5	55.9	63.0	1152	1159	1089	19.94	19.29	22.59
Good	5451	6545	4666	29.0	35.3	24.6	1016	1013	992	17.97	17.45	19.84
Com'l.	678	972	1653	3.6	5.2	8.7	955	966	972	15.28	15.30	17.76
Utility	263	343	549	1.4	1.8	2.9	898	887	943	13.62	13.66	15.66
All grades	18827	18559	18967				1106	1096	1053	19.27	18.49	21.41
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	242	234	--	2.5	2.1	--	1297	1290	--	22.44	22.36	--
Choice	6137	7372	4744	64.3	64.4	50.7	1161	1154	1130	19.74	19.38	22.38
Good	2665	2974	3249	28.0	26.0	34.7	1046	1006	1049	17.93	17.31	20.28
Com'l.	460	701	1149	4.8	6.1	12.3	988	1020	991	16.16	15.46	18.00
Utility	34	164	216	.4	1.4	2.3	1023	961	1017	13.70	14.10	15.99
All grades	9538	11445	9358				1124	1108	1082	19.18	18.67	21.05
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	111	18	--	1.4	.3	--	1138	1429	--	22.37	21.00	--
Choice	3890	2146	1773	50.3	36.3	45.3	1112	1117	1088	19.99	19.72	22.96
Good	3252	3313	1444	42.0	56.0	36.8	1050	1054	1004	18.34	17.94	20.74
Com'l.	391	399	608	5.1	6.8	15.5	984	1054	990	15.62	15.60	17.35
Utility	90	36	93	1.2	.6	2.4	983	1023	981	13.62	13.97	15.31
All grades	7734	5912	3918				1078	1077	1039	19.08	18.45	21.17
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	--	19	5	--	.2	.1	--	1117	1233	--	22.50	27.00
Choice	2592	2369	824	31.9	28.0	17.4	1092	1094	1042	19.73	19.43	23.15
Good	3435	4209	3058	42.3	49.6	64.4	990	1004	991	18.09	17.84	20.87
Com'l.	1666	1566	685	20.5	18.5	14.4	883	928	932	16.50	16.28	18.58
Utility	437	316	176	5.3	3.7	3.7	806	909	887	15.01	14.57	16.63
All grades	8130	8479	4748				991	1012	988	18.24	17.96	20.84
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	116	49	41	1.6	.8	.7	1229	1199	1171	21.44	21.28	24.24
Choice	3704	3358	1886	51.6	54.6	32.9	1136	1113	1102	19.84	19.14	22.55
Good	2383	1952	2924	33.2	31.7	51.0	1038	1067	1038	18.00	17.20	20.12
Com'l.	959	688	844	13.3	11.2	14.7	956	1027	971	16.14	15.60	17.19
Utility	22	102	43	.3	1.7	.7	831	904	828	13.64	13.02	14.53
All grades	7184	6149	5738				1080	1086	1019	18.83	18.10	20.56

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Month											
	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	7466	9543	2895	5.5	8.8	3.0	1291	1307	1258	23.51	22.10	28.45
Choice	78483	60966	56656	58.2	56.0	58.3	1192	1189	1138	20.56	19.41	24.62
Good	40789	31240	29083	30.2	28.7	30.0	1047	1068	1009	18.34	17.37	21.51
Com'l.	7339	5644	7355	5.4	5.2	7.6	980	975	980	15.83	15.23	18.16
Utility	866	1418	1110	.7	1.3	1.1	991	980	931	14.20	13.53	15.71
All grades	134943	108811	97099				1141	1151	1089	19.87	18.89	23.36
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	996	471	348	1.3	.8	.5	1303	1251	1253	22.63	22.36	26.38
Choice	44105	36455	34249	58.4	58.6	49.1	1169	1154	1114	19.42	18.78	23.37
Good	25215	20951	26982	33.4	33.7	38.7	1030	1050	1013	17.65	16.82	21.14
Com'l.	3854	3444	6754	5.1	5.5	9.7	986	983	965	15.44	14.45	18.27
Utility	1383	851	1387	1.8	1.4	2.0	900	932	895	13.68	12.68	15.79
All grades	75553	62172	69720				1110	1056	1057	18.66	21.82	21.98
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	930	1044	73	2.6	2.9	.2	1344	1379	1203	22.19	21.14	27.11
Choice	23456	18422	17505	64.6	51.6	47.3	1168	1190	1137	19.56	18.84	23.35
Good	9846	14518	15162	27.1	40.7	41.0	1035	1095	1063	17.57	17.12	21.43
Com'l.	1668	1385	3529	4.6	3.9	9.5	1014	1001	994	15.56	14.70	18.26
Utility	386	304	728	1.1	.9	2.0	975	969	1016	14.03	13.01	15.62
All grades	36286	35673	36997				1128	1148	1091	18.93	18.07	22.01
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	273	166	106	.9	.6	.6	1240	1244	1062	21.47	20.24	26.51
Choice	12356	11262	6212	41.9	39.8	35.7	1112	1110	1088	19.65	18.36	23.63
Good	13897	13364	8974	47.2	47.2	51.6	1050	1054	1009	18.07	16.93	21.40
Com'l.	2467	3015	1850	8.4	10.6	10.6	1027	1024	977	15.77	14.98	17.96
Utility	484	524	251	1.6	1.8	1.5	1017	980	962	14.15	13.04	15.75
All grades	29477	28331	17393				1075	1073	1033	18.55	17.28	21.86
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	39	6	62	.1	--	.3	1136	1102	1119	22.50	21.23	26.94
Choice	9388	7910	2237	29.4	29.6	11.9	1094	1128	1064	19.37	18.36	24.01
Good	14263	12875	10816	44.6	48.2	57.4	1008	1011	1000	17.80	16.84	21.96
Com'l.	6983	5311	5092	21.8	19.9	27.0	939	952	929	16.30	15.00	19.54
Utility	1314	628	648	4.1	2.3	3.4	872	858	807	14.49	13.03	16.56
All grades	31987	26730	18855				1013	1030	982	17.88	16.92	21.47
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	262	151	126	.9	.6	.5	1219	1224	1231	21.20	20.21	25.75
Choice	14263	10204	10865	50.3	40.7	43.7	1133	1132	1108	19.46	18.65	23.71
Good	10121	11554	11660	35.7	46.0	46.8	1048	1066	1008	17.71	17.07	20.87
Com'l.	3367	2802	1892	11.9	11.2	7.6	984	991	967	15.74	14.92	17.65
Utility	331	385	350	1.2	1.5	1.4	878	900	902	13.45	12.93	15.24
All grades	28344	25096	24893				1083	1083	1048	18.41	17.49	21.92

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head (Week ended)			Percent of total by grades (Week ended)			Average weight (pounds) (Week ended)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb. (Week ended)		
	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955	May 3 1956	Apr. 26 1956	May 5 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	85	91	26	1.2	1.3	.4	1433	1247	1171	21.82	21.14	25.50
Choice	5890	4936	4487	79.9	69.9	78.3	1149	1157	1110	19.76	19.50	23.13
Good	1236	1893	1112	16.7	26.8	19.4	1043	1059	1025	18.22	18.12	20.88
Com'l.	90	97	108	1.2	1.4	1.9	1043	1042	1091	15.20	15.36	16.42
Utility	76	46	--	1.0	.6	--	1050	951	--	13.98	14.31	--
All grades	7377	7063	5733				1132	1129	1094	19.45	19.10	22.61
Grade	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	176	8	217	.6	--	1.1	1337	1039	1223	21.49	21.50	26.45
Choice	19931	13224	15429	70.0	70.1	79.4	1145	1151	1102	19.61	18.64	23.92
Good	7652	5269	3084	26.9	28.0	15.9	1050	1075	1060	18.24	17.07	21.50
Com'l.	454	290	693	1.6	1.5	3.5	1006	989	1019	15.65	13.98	16.76
Utility	247	70	16	.9	.4	.1	996	964	993	14.06	13.42	14.00
All grades	28460	18861	19439				1117	1126	1093	19.18	18.14	23.33

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketing of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and Mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.
May 5, 1956	393	215.4	145	17.4	1,270	170.7	242	11.4	414.9	--
Apr. 28, 1956	387	212.1	147	17.2	1,369	180.3	271	13.0	422.6	--
Apr. 21, 1956 1/	374	--	141	--	1,237	--	275	--	--	43.5
May 7, 1955	378	202.2	140	16.5	1,040	143.8	292	13.5	376.0	38.0
Percentage change from:										
Apr. 28, 1956	+2	+2	-1	+1	-7	-5	-11	-12	-2	--
May 7, 1955	+4	+7	+4	+5	+22	+19	-17	-16	+10	+17

Week ended	Average weight (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs 2/		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	
May 5, 1956	990	548	215	120	240	134	97	47	--
Apr. 28, 1956	990	548	210	117	236	132	98	48	--
Apr. 21, 1956	995	549	205	114	235	132	99	48	--
May 7, 1955	965	535	212	118	247	138	96	46	14.8

1/ Actual slaughter.
2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	May 7 1955
Boston, New York City Area	14,077	11,833	11,617	12,042	43,612	54,839	41,015	50,116
Baltimore, Philadelphia	8,343	7,667	1,014	1,242	28,721	22,114	2,498	2,461
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	18,687	17,983	8,254	6,965	101,421	77,933	13,942	11,253
Chicago Area	29,066	28,689	7,842	6,862	63,202	52,493	4,525	7,833
St. Paul-Wis Areas	34,567	30,417	27,348	28,303	103,292	91,427	7,506	9,681
St. Louis Area	16,848	15,746	6,007	5,615	91,522	64,429	5,718	9,800
Sioux City	12,098	9,522	158	8	20,901	11,610	2,239	2,183
Omaha Area	31,766	35,503	709	977	72,895	57,908	11,073	16,756
Kansas City	16,615	15,377	3,123	4,529	31,692	27,496	8,193	15,095
Iowa-So. Minnesota	31,860	28,132	13,455	12,596	282,333	237,365	24,133	28,303
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	9,785	9,142	9,421	9,234	59,489	44,513	Not available	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,456	8,836	3,100	3,817	27,769	19,942	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	19,712	20,560	3,278	4,542	56,221	40,010	17,179	16,737
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	15,431	26,324	5,904	8,555	18,905	15,954	23,901	37,756
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	18,974	16,405	1,225	1,073	16,306	14,276	19,585	17,640
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	27,210	29,912	2,665	4,239	35,819	34,140	27,704	30,168
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,195	6,822	554	461	15,287	15,032	4,030	3,994
Total	318,690	318,870	105,674	111,060	1,069,387	881,481	213,241	259,776
Accumulation to date	5,382,122	5,108,515	1,882,347	1,889,990	21,377,660	17,869,982	4,404,199	4,412,362

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
					Feeders and stockers								
May 4, 1956	3	28	10	7	5	19	7	8	7	30	30	27	35
Apr. 27, 1956	2	38	10	8	4	14	7	6	5	30	35	29	55
May 6, 1955	4	43	15	13	6	20	8	7	12	35	50	35	33
					Slaughter cows								
May 4, 1956	6	9	10	11	14	9	28	9	8	13	15	19	25
Apr. 27, 1956	6	10	12	19	16	9	28	11	7	15	12	20	25
May 6, 1955	10	12	8	14	17	5	35	15	10	35	20	15	40

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.78	24.08	26.28	22.92	22.22	25.35	23.70	23.30	25.72
1100-1300	24.02	24.22	27.10	22.80	21.98	25.52	23.52	23.30	26.10
Choice 900-1100	20.90	20.95	24.10	20.55	19.95	23.10	20.62	19.98	22.70
1100-1300	20.88	20.95	24.10	20.40	19.70	23.10	20.62	19.98	22.70
Good 900-1100	18.12	18.22	20.80	17.75	17.45	20.18	17.45	17.05	19.55
Com'l. All wts.	15.78	15.82	17.65	15.50	15.30	17.25	15.12	14.98	17.48
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	19.85	19.42	22.00	19.75	19.30	21.60	20.00	19.38	21.58
Good 500-900	17.74	17.38	19.88	17.50	17.14	18.82	17.50	17.00	19.05
Com'l. All wts.	15.30	15.02	17.25	15.25	14.72	16.00	15.00	14.60	16.32
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	13.32	13.40	14.65	12.75	12.38	13.92	12.75	12.25	13.90
Utility	11.92	12.10	12.90	11.50	11.28	12.32	11.62	11.25	12.00
Canner & Cutter	10.60	10.75	11.20	10.12	9.95	10.60	10.25	10.00	10.12
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.00	13.10	13.52	--	--	--	13.12	13.18	12.75
Utility & Commercial	15.15	15.24	15.15	13.80	13.50	13.79	13.75	13.74	13.88
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	24.30	24.20	26.90	21.00	20.00	21.80	21.00	21.00	21.00
Com'l. & Good	19.10	18.70	21.50	18.00	17.00	17.80	16.50	16.50	17.00
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	20.50	20.50	21.80	18.70	18.00	19.70	18.50	18.50	19.50
Com'l. & Good	15.90	15.75	17.30	15.75	15.00	16.40	15.00	15.00	15.50
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.75	19.75	23.25	19.75	19.25	22.70	19.22	18.70	23.50
Good " "	17.25	17.25	20.85	17.75	17.00	19.85	16.75	16.30	21.00
Medium 500-1000	15.50	15.50	17.50	15.50	14.75	16.80	14.25	14.02	18.00
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	17.25	17.25	19.75	17.75	17.25	19.30	17.00	16.68	19.50
Med. & Gd. " "	14.50	14.50	16.25	15.00	14.50	16.30	14.38	13.90	16.50
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.50	11.50	11.75	11.38	11.25	12.00
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.50	19.75	19.50	21.80	19.25	19.08	22.75
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	19.50	17.25	16.75	18.65	16.38	16.18	19.50

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	14.18	14.08	16.75	12.98	12.66	15.25	14.10	13.98	16.95
2 and 3	180-200	15.11	15.12	17.65	14.40	14.19	16.51	15.40	15.28	17.75
	200-220	15.46	15.42	17.62	14.87	14.66	16.76	15.52	15.35	17.72
	220-240	15.38	15.45	17.43	14.65	14.40	16.67	15.48	15.34	17.58
	240-270	15.18	15.22	16.95	14.25	13.96	16.17	15.02	15.08	17.02
	270-300	14.88	14.96	16.40	13.75	13.44	15.56	14.48	14.75	16.35
Sows –										
	300-330#	13.85	14.02	15.20	13.35	13.13	14.26	13.60	13.90	14.88
	360-400	13.00	13.25	14.45	12.88	12.67	13.40	13.18	13.25	14.28
	450-550	12.05	12.32	13.25	11.82	11.60	12.19	11.78	11.95	13.18
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
		May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	--	--	--	14.75	14.85	17.24	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	15.62	15.32	17.12	15.44	15.42	17.52	15.38	14.90	16.75
	200-220	15.62	15.32	17.12	15.43	15.36	17.46	15.60	15.15	16.92
	220-240	15.62	15.32	17.12	15.39	15.34	17.16	15.58	15.12	16.82
	240-270	15.18	14.82	16.38	15.14	15.12	16.72	15.18	14.88	16.18
	270-300	14.78	14.45	15.42	14.54	14.75	16.15	14.50	14.10	15.42
Sows –										
	300-330#	13.90	13.55	14.68	13.38	13.38	14.82	14.20	13.75	14.65
	360-400	13.55	13.18	13.60	13.00	12.98	14.45	13.50	12.88	13.70
	450-550	12.60	12.22	12.60	12.20	12.12	13.32	12.32	11.90	12.38
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
		May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	15.12	14.55	17.15	15.97	15.81	18.06	16.62	16.59	19.48
2 and 3	180-200	15.80	15.45	17.28	16.56	16.47	18.50	17.00	16.97	19.81
	200-220	15.80	15.45	17.22	16.56	16.47	18.68	17.00	16.97	19.81
	220-240	15.75	15.28	16.85	16.19	16.12	18.28	16.75	16.72	19.69
	240-270	15.48	15.12	16.28	15.72	15.56	17.44	15.62	15.62	18.59
	270-300	14.55	14.08	15.50	14.59	14.22	16.44	15.25	15.25	17.82
Sows –										
	300-330#	14.12	13.45	14.62	12.69	12.28	14.38	14.00	14.00	16.25
	360-400	13.12	12.58	14.02	12.56	12.22	14.28	12.88	12.75	15.38
	450-550	12.20	11.95	12.78	11.50	10.69	12.06	11.50	11.50	14.50
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	14.05	13.50	17.50	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST –					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	May 5,1956	15.16	15.19	15.23	15.22	15.14	15.27	15.14	15.30	15.20
	Apr. 28,1956	15.22	15.16	14.86	14.95	14.81	14.99	14.76	15.20	15.03
	May 7,1955	16.98	17.12	16.86	16.38	16.17	16.69	16.44	17.32	16.79
Sows	May 5,1956	12.66	12.72	12.74	13.34	13.16	13.17	13.09	12.15	12.81
	Apr. 28,1956	12.82	12.77	12.59	12.93	12.69	13.08	12.72	12.25	12.72
	May 7,1955	13.77	13.85	13.57	13.46	13.41	13.68	13.63	13.35	13.58
AVERAGE WEIGHT –					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	May 5,1956	231	218	218	224	229	216	225	224	223
	Apr. 28,1956	231	218	219	226	228	216	224	223	223
	May 7,1955	241	221	227	238	241	229	235	228	232
Sows	May 5,1956	419	408	413	389	379	382	383	439	405
	Apr. 28,1956	420	402	403	383	383	385	387	444	404
	May 7,1955	423	416	428	389	382	391	383	460	406
NUMBER OF HEAD –										
Barrows and gilts	May 5,1956	31581	56896	11053	27030	21022	22056	41191	38403	249232
	Apr. 28,1956	40343	60063	12623	34913	27785	26701	44205	45239	291872
	May 7,1955	36163	45384	8396	29363	21296	22564	33143	35364	231673
Sows	May 5,1956	7323	3684	660	4535	2743	1885	5865	5300	31995
	Apr. 28,1956	6713	4077	671	5283	2918	2021	5289	4749	31721
	May 7,1955	5229	2843	441	6185	3178	1758	5384	3754	28772
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	May 5,1956	19	6	6	14	12	8	12	12	11
	Apr. 28,1956	14	6	5	13	10	7	11	10	10
	May 7,1955	13	6	5	17	13	7	14	10	11

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
May 5, 1956	$17.22	$15.46	$1.76
Apr. 28, 1956	17.65*	15.42	2.23*
May 7, 1955	19.30*	17.62	1.68*

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report. *Revised.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No.1, 2 and 3 hogs 200-220# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel 1/	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
May 5, 1956	15.16	153.2	9.9
Apr. 28, 1956	15.22	153.3	9.9
May 7, 1955	16.98	148.8	11.4

1/ Simple average price.

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Month	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -		Dollars per 100 pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 1956	15.13	15.09	14.98	14.96	14.86	15.04	14.78	15.17	15.01
	Mar. 1956	12.98	13.27	13.50	13.32	13.19	13.46	13.04	13.21	13.20
	Apr. 1955	16.90	17.29	17.15	16.79	16.59	17.13	16.66	17.21	16.96
Sows	Apr. 1956	12.84	12.66	12.53	12.86	12.67	12.93	12.66	12.13	12.66
	Mar. 1956	11.24	10.96	11.08	11.59	11.28	11.34	11.02	10.52	11.09
	Apr. 1955	14.51	14.64	14.69	14.32	14.16	14.67	14.18	13.93	14.31
AVERAGE WEIGHT -		Pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 1956	233	219	218	226	230	216	223	223	223
	Mar. 1956	235	219	218	227	233	217	221	222	224
	Apr. 1955	244	220	229	242	245	230	233	227	233
Sows	Apr. 1956	421	407	409	390	391	386	388	441	407
	Mar. 1956	426	411	409	404	405	386	396	442	415
	Apr. 1955	425	411	425	399	396	394	387	455	411
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 1956	148223	249841	51271	133475	100627	109329	176475	164520	1133761
	Mar. 1956	156726	268447	50796	139644	120336	114196	239708	211828	1301681
	Apr. 1955	142572	186834	32442	134097	102121	92684	166828	174291	1031869
Sows	Apr. 1956	24488	15683	2872	17413	8852	7543	18330	16661	111842
	Mar. 1956	21743	14989	2775	12035	5543	6601	12683	15571	91940
	Apr. 1955	17462	10944	1465	18627	9708	7327	18613	15522	99668
SOWS		Percentage of total								
	Apr. 1956	14	6	5	12	8	6	9	9	9
	Mar. 1956	12	5	5	8	4	6	5	7	7
	Apr. 1955	11	6	4	12	9	7	10	8	9

1/ Weighted average.

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Apr. 1956	$17.19	$15.44	$1.75
Mar. 1956	15.80*	13.44	2.36*
Apr. 1955	19.00*	17.49	1.51*

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report. * Revised.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs, 200-220# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Month	Barrows and gilts 1/ Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Apr. 1956	15.13	145.2	10.4
Mar. 1956	12.98	132.1	9.8*
Apr. 1955	16.90	146.0	11.6

1/ Weighted average. *Revised.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS (SPRING) -								
Choice and Prime	May 5, 1956	--	25.90	26.28	--	25.35	23.00	23.12
	Apr. 28, 1956	21.95*	22.60	24.15	--	21.50*	--	20.75
	May 7, 1955	21.15*	--	22.18	--	22.50	20.75	20.50
Good and Choice	May 5, 1956	--	24.05	24.72	23.65	23.88	21.75	22.50
	Apr. 28, 1956	21.30*	--	22.85	21.40	19.88*	18.55*	20.25
	May 7, 1955	20.35*	--	20.70	20.40	20.75	20.00	--
LAMBS - 105# down (Shorn) -								
Choice and Prime	May 5, 1956	22.45	22.45	23.22	--	22.49	18.75	--
	Apr. 28, 1956	21.08	20.90	20.90	--	--	--	--
	May 7, 1955	19.52	18.20	17.62	--	--	--	--
Good and Choice	May 5, 1956	21.75	21.30	21.25	19.50	20.90	17.25	--
	Apr. 28, 1956	20.45	19.52	19.78	18.45	--	--	--
	May 7, 1955	18.78	17.50	16.00	15.98	--	16.50	--
EWES (SHORN) -								
Good and Choice	May 5, 1956	5.60	6.00	5.32	--	6.62	5.50	4.50
	Apr. 28, 1956	5.85	5.00	5.25	--	6.88	8.00*	--
	May 7, 1955	6.00	5.12	5.55	--	6.75	--	5.25
Cull and Utility	May 5, 1956	4.25	4.38	4.08	--	4.00	3.25	3.00
	Apr. 28, 1956	4.30	3.75	4.00	--	4.25	5.25*	--
	May 7, 1955	4.75	3.88	4.30	--	4.62	--	3.75
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	May 5, 1956	--	--	--	15.40	--	--	--
	Apr. 28, 1956	--	--	--	--	17.88	--	--
	May 7, 1955	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Wooled basis.

LIVESTOCK PRICES AT CHICAGO COMPARED WITH WHOLESALE AND COMPOSITE RETAIL MEAT PRICES AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MEAT VALUES AT NEW YORK

	Steers			Lambs			Hogs		
	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955
	Dollars per 100 pounds								
Live animal prices Chicago	22.68	22.00	27.18	21.28	20.61	22.12	15.43	13.45	17.35
Wholesale meat prices, New York	37.72	38.51	45.11	40.42	38.42	43.40	--	--	--
	Cents per pound								
Composite retail meat prices, New York	55.36	53.33	67.83	53.72	51.23	59.20	--	--	--
	Value of carcass meat from 100# live animal (dollars)								
Wholesale - New York	22.63	21.31	27.07	19.81	18.83	21.27	19.36	18.20	21.86
Retail - New York	26.02	25.07	32.15	25.36	24.18	27.94	24.23	23.07	27.40

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Receipts of Western dressed steer beef were normal while volume of other classes was moderate. The supply was ample throughout as demand was only fair and trading held to a slow pace. The trade was highlighted by a strong to higher price trend on most classes, with sizable upturns on veal and lamb. However, a reverse situation prevailed for fresh pork items. Retail butchers, jobbers, and small chain outlets were most active, while participation by volume accounts was mainly on a fill-in basis. Clearance of virtually all classes was complete although very slow on fresh pork. Compared with Friday the previous week: Steer beef unevenly 50¢ lower to $1.50 higher; cow beef steady to $1.00 higher; veal strong to $5.00 higher; calf strong to $2.00 higher; spring lamb $3.00 to $6.00 higher, old crop lamb steady to $4.00 higher; pork loins $1.00 to $2.00 lower, other fresh pork cuts $1.00 higher to $3.00 lower.

Choice 600-900# steer carcasses predominated with some increase in Prime steer beef. Prices on the latter were about 50¢ off, but advances were registered on Good and Choice offerings. Cow beef cleared readily in most instances, and prices were fully steady to 50¢ higher, the advance on high-Commercial.

Calf numbers were in the minority, but all grades and weights of veal were represented. Prices worked higher throughout the list, with maximum upturns registered on lower grade offerings. Old crop and spring lamb were represented, latter comprising the bulk late. Prices surged upward and closed sharply higher.

Fresh pork prices were weaker as retail interest lagged. Most primal cuts eased off, with sizable declines on fresh loins. Small early advances on fresh skinned hams were well sustained, due mainly to the relatively few on offer. Prices after midweek were under pressure.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Demand for locally dressed fresh meats was good, with most retail outlets participating daily. A fair volume of fresh meats, particularly beef and pork cuts, moved into large chain store channels through previous commitments. Steer hindquarters and primal cuts sold steady, while kosher beef worked progressively lower. Prices of veal and calf strengthened, but easiness developed on kosher offerings toward the close. Lamb carcasses and hindsaddles worked progressively higher, but kosher lamb foresaddles held barely steady. Most locally dressed fresh pork cuts declined.

Movement of a normal supply of steer hindquarters and wholesale primal cuts was fairly dependable. Demand for arm chucks and rounds lacked urgency after Wednesday. Prices on all steer cuts held steady for the week. A normal kosher steer beef supply sold slowly and under constant pressure.

Daily clearances of veal and calf were usually complete, with prices strong to higher on all grades and weights. This situation prevailed most of the week despite less buyer action toward the close. Lamb kills consisted of both old crop and spring carcasses, but numbers of the former appeared to be rapidly dwindling. Prices turned upward and advances were well sustained. Demand for kosher lamb foresaddles was only fair and fell short of wholesalers' estimates. Prices held steady under pressure.

Prices on locally dressed fresh pork followed a weak pattern on all sessions. Prices on loins and most other primal cuts were revised downward, the former in instances selling in line with Western dressed offerings. Late stock positions pointed to satisfactory clearances.

Local cattle slaughter was virtually the same as the previous week, but calf slaughter was the largest of the year. The hog kill was below the previous week, and was smallest since last July.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

The week's moderate to normal supplies of steer and heifer beef and veal were about the same as the previous week and proved sufficient for demand. Good and Choice grades predominated. Lamb and fresh pork supplies were moderate, bulk of the former consisting of old crop offerings. Trading as a whole was slow although some cuts were in fairly good demand. Squarecut beef chucks and rounds sold dependably at higher prices, while ribs and loins were slowest to move. Most sellers were reluctant to cut beef hindquarters for rounds because of poor clearance on loins. Higher prices on chucks and rounds were offset by declines on ribs and loins and most wholesalers were unable to cut beef profitably. Shipping outlet for carlot beef was fair early in the week but action slowed toward the close. In lamb cuts, legs were hardest to move despite price concessions. For the past two weeks lamb replacement costs have advanced daily. However, salesmen encountered resistance to higher asking prices until late in the current week. Local veal trade was slow to fair on the limited volume of lower grade carcasses under 80#. Pork loins declined as much as $6.00 compared to the previous week's close. Volume accounts proved best outlets for the current week's fresh meat supply, while trade in distributive channels was slow. Most wholesale establishments expect a carryover of lamb legs and beef loins. Otherwise, clearance at this level should be fair. Compared to last Thursday's close: Prime beef about 50¢ lower, other grades 50¢ to $1.00 higher; veal steady to $1.00 higher; lamb $2.50 to $4.50 higher; pork loins 8-16# $5.00-6.00 lower; other pork cuts steady to $1.00 lower.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of most beef carcasses were fully adequate for a continued limited demand on the West Coast. Moderate supplies of veal and calf carcasses were sufficient for trade needs while spring lamb carcasses were barely adequate at all points. Fresh and cured pork cuts were fully ample with curtailed production at most markets. Demand was generally narrow with trading slow and selective on most beef. Spring lamb trade was active with supply insufficient for the good demand. Pork trade was fair to slow. Prices compared to a week earlier: Steer beef steady to strong, instances Utility to Good $1.00 higher at Los Angeles; cow beef mostly steady, with some sales $1.00 higher at Los Angeles; veal and calf steady in California and weak to $2.00 lower in the Northwest; spring lamb $3.00-5.00 higher; fresh pork loins weak to $3.00 lower at Los Angeles and in the Northwest and $3.00 higher at San Francisco; other fresh pork mostly steady, instances $1.00 lower at Los Angeles; smoked skinned hams steady to $2.00 lower at Los Angeles; other smoked meats steady to $2.00 higher, the advance at San Francisco; lard steady to $1.00 higher.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# cashed from $32.50-36.00, few to $37.00 at San Francisco; 700-800# $32.00-33.00 in California; Good 500-700# $30.00-34.00; Commercial $27.00-32.00. Good and Choice veal under 150# sold from $37.00-42.00 in California and $40.00-48.00 in the Northwest; same grades of calf under 300# $34.00-39.00; Commercial, all weights, $29.00-33.00 at Los Angeles. Choice and Prime spring lamb under 55# sold from $45.00-50.00, with some orders unfilled. Closely trimmed pork loins under 16# brought $43.00-50.00, few sales to $54.00 at Los Angeles; shoulders under 16# $24.00-32.00; Boston butts under 8# $30.00-38.00; fresh skinned hams under 18# $44.00-50.00; spareribs under 3# $36.00-46.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $45.00-56.00; slab bacon under 10# $28.00-42.00; sliced 1# bacon $36.00-46.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-19.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955	May 5 1956	Apr. 28 1956	May 7 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	41.40	41.50	--	38.90	39.00	46.50	--	--	--
700–800	39.90	40.00	46.10	38.90	39.00	46.50	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	34.75	34.15	38.90	35.50	35.50	41.50
600–700	35.75	35.25	41.30	34.75	34.15	40.10	34.00	34.00	40.50
Good 350–600	32.70	32.00	38.00	32.15	31.05	36.30	33.00	33.00	38.00
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	33.00	29.00	28.70	33.30	30.00	30.00	35.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	28.00	27.75	30.00	--	--	--	28.50	28.50	30.00
Utility	26.50	25.50	26.90	--	--	--	25.50	25.50	26.50
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	41.00	41.00	44.50	42.50	42.50	43.30	--	--	--
Choice " "	37.40	36.20	38.30	38.00	37.40	40.20	--	--	--
Good " "	34.00	30.90	34.30	35.00	34.40	37.80	41.00	41.00	39.00
Spring lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	49.10	46.00	40.50*	44.90*	42.30*	43.50*	45.20	41.00	41.00
50–60	--	--	38.90*	43.20*	40.90*	40.00*	43.50	--	--
Choice 40–50	49.10	46.00	40.50*	44.90*	42.30*	42.25*	44.20	40.00	40.00
50–60	--	--	38.90*	43.20*	40.90*	39.00*	42.90	--	--
Good all wts.	47.40	43.00	36.80*	41.35*	39.25*	37.50*	42.20	37.00	38.50
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	44.20	45.45	50.70	41.10	44.10	49.20	50.00	48.00	55.00
10–12 "	44.20	45.45	50.70	41.10	44.10	49.20	51.00	49.00	53.00
12–16 "	44.00	44.50	48.60	40.05	42.50	47.70	50.50	48.00	52.60
Butts 4–8 "	30.70	32.50	35.00	28.85	28.80	31.00	36.00	36.00	41.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	49.00	48.00	51.90	51.95	51.75	51.35	54.00	51.00	57.00
16–18 "	46.00	46.50	47.40	50.10	50.15	50.65	52.00	50.00	54.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	50.10	50.15	48.05	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	33.20	32.85	45.35	40.00	38.00	53.00
8–10 "	32.00	33.00	40.50	31.55	31.85	42.55	38.00	36.00	48.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	38.50	39.00	49.50	38.60	38.20	50.60	42.00	40.00	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	26.50	25.00	33.00	30.75	30.75	34.55	30.00	30.00	38.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	14.00	14.00	15.00	12.35	12.12	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.62	16.25	17.00	16.50	16.25	16.05	18.25	18.25	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	--	--	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.
*Old-crop lamb.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Movement of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market continued slow as approximately twenty cars were sold. Prices were about steady at last week's level with most of the demand being for 3/8s and 1/4 blood wools. Movement of scoured wools and noils was slow with prices about steady at last week's level.

Buyers for topmakers were active in the territory States and California. Substantial quantities of wool were sold and contracting continued in the Northern States. Activity in the fleece wool States was good and a small quantity of 12 months wool moved in Texas. Several sales of Texas 8 months were reported. Australian prices were up about two to five percent with Japan being one of the leading bidders. New Zealand quotations were firm at last week's level with Bradford and Germany buying. Cape markets reported no change but prices were firm with an upward tendency. South American markets continued quiet.

Fleece Wools - Delaine wools sold for $1.30 clean basis. One half blood good French combing and staple was quoted at $1.13 clean basis. Graded Ohio 3/8s good French combing and staple sold from $1.02-1.04 clean basis, while graded quarter blood sold for 98¢-99¢ clean basis. Two cars of mixed Ohio and Indiana 3/8s and quarter blood sold for 54¢ grease basis. Country buyers continued to pay 42¢ in the grease to growers.

Territory Wools - Buyers for topmakers were active in the territory States buying wool as shorn. Territory graded fine staple sold for $1.30. New Mexico staple 64/70s sold for $1.30 clean basis. Original bag territory half blood sold for $1.18 based on the core. Several thousand fleeces in the Sacramento Valley of California sold for 44¢-55¢ grease basis. One clip in Elko, Nevada area sold for 45¢ grease basis. In the Shoshone, Idaho area wool sold for 42½¢ grease basis. A substantial volume in Utah sold for 42¢ and 43¢. Around 90,000 pounds of wool sold at a sale in Roswell, New Mexico, ranging in price from 35-3/4¢-44-5/8¢. Substantial quantities of wool sold in Wyoming and Colorado at 36¢-44¢. Contracting for choice original bag fine and half blood wools in Montana was reported at 45¢ and 50¢ a pound. Medium wools were reported moving in Oregon.

Texas Wool - Texas 12 months original bag average and good French combing wools sold around $1.25 clean basis, delivered Boston. Several thousand pounds of Texas 8 months wool sold in the Del Rio area for 51½¢-53½¢ grease basis. Turnover of Texas wools in the Boston market was very slow.

Mohair - Prices of 87½¢ for adult hair and 97½¢ for kid hair were firm but no sales were reported in the local market. It was reported that only about 1½ million pounds of hair remained unsold.

Foreign Wools - Australian and Cape prices little higher, New Zealand market firm. Cabled reports at week's end follow: Australian type 56B at $1.32; 61B at $1.39; 62B at $1.32; 63B at $1.23; 422 at $1.21; 423 at $1.07; 424 at $1.01; 425 at 94¢. New Zealand type 93 at 91¢; 834 at 89¢; 114 at 86¢; 128 at 85¢. Cape type 23 at $1.33; 27 at $1.26; 28 at $1.24; 32 at $1.21; 33 at $1.19. Quotes based on clean U. S. yield in bond.

Carpet Wools - Trade in carpet wools was stagnant but primary markets still strong. Buenos Aires shippers asking 85¢ for November; New Zealand shippers asking 86¢ clean for shipment.

Wool Tops - The wool tops market continued very slow with few sales of moderate quantities. Quotes follow: Warp Australian dry-combed 70s at $1.92; 64s at $1.80; 62s at $1.70; 60s at $1.66. Oil-combed 58/60s at $1.60; warp domestic dry-combed 64s at $1.73; 62s at $1.65; 60s at $1.60. Domestic oil-combed 58/60s at $1.52; 56s at $1.36; 50/56s at $1.30 and 48/50s at $1.25.

Continued on page 385.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, UNITED STATES, MARCH 1956, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

Month and period	Cattle: Federally Inspected	Cattle: Other wholesale & retail	Cattle: Total	Cattle: Av. live weight	Calves: Federally Inspected	Calves: Other wholesale & retail	Calves: Total	Calves: Av. live weight
	Thousand head			Pounds	Thousand head			Pounds
Mar. 1956	1,566.0	514.8	2,080.8	973	646.7	386.3	1,033.0	197
Feb. 1956	1,483.5	515.1	1,998.6	981	586.0	360.4	946.4	206
Jan.-Mar.1956	4,746.4	1,588.6	6,335.0	979	1,834.6	1,112.8	2,947.4	206
Jan.-Mar.1955	4,358.8	1,624.3	5,983.1	944	1,740.1	1,251.1	2,991.2	202

Month and period	Hogs: Federally Inspected	Hogs: Other wholesale & retail	Hogs: Total	Hogs: Av. live weight	Sheep and lambs: Federally Inspected	Sheep and lambs: Other wholesale & retail	Sheep and lambs: Total	Sheep and lambs: Av. live weight
	Thousand head			Pounds	Thousand head			Pounds
Mar. 1956	6,326.6	1,205.5	7,532.1	228	1,215.8	151.1	1,366.9	101
Feb. 1956	5,922.3	1,194.4	7,116.7	230	1,163.2	155.0	1,318.2	102
Jan.-Mar.1956	18,954.2	3,754.8	22,709.0	231	3,708.0	469.2	4,177.2	101
Jan.-Mar.1955	15,647.9	3,805.1	19,453.0	237	3,547.1	426.4	3,973.5	101

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. "Other wholesale and retail" slaughter is estimated.

MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, MARCH 1956 1/

Month and period	Beef	Veal	Pork 2/	Lamb and Mutton	Total meat 2/	Lard 3/
	Million Pounds					
Mar. 1956	1,131	113	955	66	2,265	254
Feb. 1956	1,087	108	4/925	64	4/2,184	232
Jan.-Mar.1956	3,447	336	2,941	202	6,926	759
Jan.-Mar.1955	3,082	333	2,636	193	6,244	650

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat.
3/ Includes rendered pork fat. 4/ Revised. Agricultural Estimates Division.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 384

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on May 3, 1956 that approximately 722,000 pounds of C.C.C.-owned wool, including wool tops, were sold from bids received on a total of about 2,161,000 pounds. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory 1/2 blood ave. and good French	54,710	$1.103
" " low 1/4	103,525	$.90 - .931
O. B. Texas, fall, best length	12,763	1.0725
Graded fleece 3/8s blood staple and good French	212,793	1.05 - 1.0725
" " 3/8s ave. French	15,107X	.83 - .98
" " 1/4 blood, staple and good French 50/54s	104,457	.983
" " 1/4 blood " " " " 48/50s	25,896	.961
" " low 1/4 blood	12,515	.92 - .931
Scoured shorn territory 1/2 blood staple & good French	14,057	1.241
" " woolen type 12 months 60s	22,500	1.0025-1.015
" " " " 8-12 months 60/64s	22,181X	.88 -1.001
" " " " 8-12 " 58/60s	17,129	.937
Pulled grease worsted type 58s	19,000X	1.06
Wool tops 64s French dry 2.25 inches	14,720	1.50
" " 62/64s noble dry 2.9 "	5,009	1.50
" " 62/64s French dry 2.9 "	5,188	1.50
" " 58s noble dry 3 inches	4,828	1.30
" " 58s French dry 2.4 "	5,235	1.25

X - No more of this class now left in inventory.

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SHEEP AND LAMBS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 369

$20.00-24.00, Cull to low-Good old crop offerings $12.00-20.50. Cull to Choice shorn slaughter ewes sold from $2.50-6.75.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Slaughter steers, heifers and cows closed mostly steady to 50¢ higher; vealers and slaughter calves 50¢-$1.00 lower at Denver, $1.00-2.00 lower at Portland, steady to $1.00 higher at other markets; stocker and feeder cattle steady at most points; barrows and gilts largely steady to 25¢ higher; slaughter lambs steady to 50¢ higher at Portland with advances of $1.00-2.75 at other terminals. Choice slaughter steers brought $19.50-21.00 at Far West public markets; Good $18.00-19.00; Good and Choice at Denver $17.00-21.00, a load of high-Choice and Prime 1427# steers at $21.25. At Ogden most Good and Choice offerings brought $16.50-19.25. Choice vealers sold in the northwest from $26.00-29.00, Good and Choice over the entire area $18.00-25.00; same grades of slaughter calves $16.00-22.00. Most Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers cleared from $17.00-19.00, few 530-560# at Stockton $19.25-19.50; same grades stock steer calves $18.00-20.00.

Direct trade on slaughter steers and heifers at California feedlots reflected strong to 50¢ higher prices. Good and Choice steers brought $19.00-21.00, high-Choice 1200# $21.25, part load 900# $22.00. Stocker and feeder steers grading Good and Choice sold for immediate delivery from $17.00-18.00, around 75 head yearlings contracted in Northern California for May 25 delivery at $19.00.

U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts brought $17.00 at S. San Francisco; $17.50 at Stockton; $16.50-17.25 at Los Angeles; $16.25-17.75 at Portland; $16.25-16.35 at Spokane; $16.75 at Ogden and $15.25-16.00 at Denver. Choice 93# native spring slaughter lambs bulked at Denver late at $26.25, Choice and Prime earlier $24.50-25.50. Good to Prime spring lambs brought $22.50-24.50 at Portland; Good and Choice at other Western terminals $21.00-23.50. Direct trading on California spring lambs was 50¢-$1.00 higher. A few loads of Good to mostly Choice 96# lambs sold in the San Joaquin Valley for immediate delivery at $22.50. Scattered loads of Good and Choice lambs sold in the Sacramento Valley on the same basis at $22.00-22.50, one band of around 2,000 head for near term delivery at $22.75, these expected to be mostly Choice.